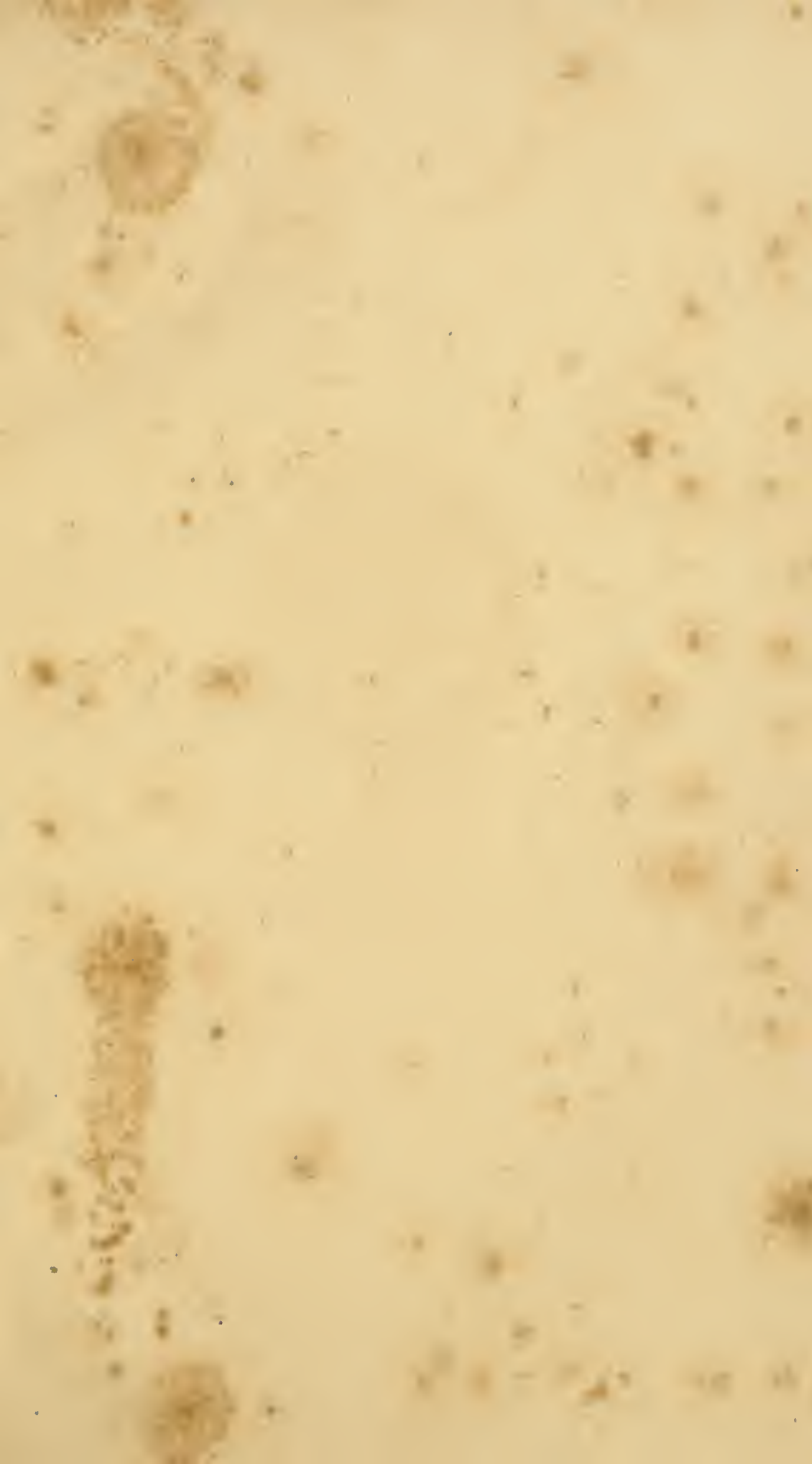





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AN  
**INQUIRY**  
INTO THE  
**ORIGIN, PEDIGREE, & HISTORY**  
OF THE  
**FAMILY, OR CLAN, OF AITONS**  
**IN SCOTLAND;**

COLLECTED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

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**BY WILLIAM AITON,**

EX-SHERIFF SUBSTITUTE IN HAMILTON.

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### NOTE.

The name, which was originally *Eytoun*, is derived from two Saxon words, *Ey* a river, and *tun* or *ton*, a habitation; but it has been altered into several forms. Sir William Dugdale writes the name "*Aton*." The family while in Berwickshire, wrote it *Eyton*, *Eytoun*, or *Eytoune*. The families of that name in Fife, write it *Ayton*, *Aytoun*, and sometimes *Aytoune*: while those in Lanarkshire have for a century past generally written their names *Aiton*, sometimes *Aitoun*.



## INTRODUCTION.

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Few historical subjects, are now regarded with such diversity of feeling, as that of Genealogy. The nobility, and the descendants of ancient families, seem eager, not only to trace out their pedigree, from remote ancestry, which is laudable, but some of them have shown a desire, to make their descents appear more remote, and far more illustrious, than can be authenticated; while the great body of the people in Britain, are so inattentive to their pedigree, that many of them cannot trace their ancestors, for more than three generations back. The conduct of both, is so far reprehensible. It is surely desirable, to trace out, as far as we can, the names, rank, and condition of our ancestors, and the founders of our families; and it is unworthy of intelligent beings, altogether to neglect such inquiries. But when attempts are made, to impose on the public, by legendary stories, unauthenticated origins to any family; or when pretended Family manuscripts are either fabricated, or fabulous matter inserted into them, to establish a connection with some family more ancient, and far more illustrious, than the real founders of the family; every person of sound sense, must laugh at the vanity which prompts to such attempts at imposition.

The etymology of some names, point out, even where the records are barren, and history silent, that they are of modern, and that others are of a more ancient derivation. Names

originating in mechanical profession, as **Masons, Smiths, Wrights, Taylors, &c.**, as well as names derived from colour, as **White, Red, Brown, Black, &c.** : and every name whether local or otherwise, that is of pure Saxon or English derivation, as **Hamilton, Whiteford, Motherwell, Blackburn, Woodburn, Whitehead, &c.**, and where *son* forms the adnomen, as **Anderson, Thomson, Paterson, &c.** ; are all evidently names of recent origin. But all names that are of Gaelic derivation, whether of local origin or not, as **Douglas, Gallaway, Carrick, Cunningham, Loudoun, Boyd, Cameron, Ayton, &c.**, show that the name is far more ancient. But the best and surest evidence of the antiquity of any name, is derived from **Charters, public Records, or well authenticated history, written at periods so remote, as to preclude suspicion, as to the influence of modern vanity.**

The author of this inquiry, when searching into the pedigree of the Ducal family of Hamilton, stumbled by accident, on what appeared to him, to be indisputable evidence, of the origin and descent of the Family, or small tribe or clan, of the name of Aitons in Scotland ; to which he has the honour to belong. And though it may savour of vanity, for obscure persons, to trace out their clans, yet as that of the Aitons can be shown, to be of much greater antiquity, and better authenticated, than the pedigree of some of the first peers of Scotland—as no part of the early history of the Aitons, stands on the doubtful authority of family manuscripts, framed to impose a false derivation, or trumpeted up, by the random averments of friendly Biographers—and as no Charters need to be concealed, in order to hide a descent from plebeians, nor legendary stories put forth to impose one that is fictitious—he offers no apology

for collecting, for his own amusement, and that of his clan, or others, the evidences that history affords, of the origin and descent of the tribe to which he belongs. In doing so on fair and solid grounds, he will not stand so impeachable with vanity, as some of his neighbours, who have attempted to conceal their evidently mean origin, and to lay claim to one far more ancient and honourable, than they can instruct by authentic evidence.

The clan Aiton, trace with certainty, their pedigree, two or three centuries farther back, than any authenticated origin, that has yet been given of some of the first Peers in Scotland, at that remote period. The Aitons do not start from the loins of a Carpenter, nor from the obscure tenant of a small farm, nor acquire their Estates by rebellion and treachery, but are found nearly eight hundred years back, holding the first rank of subjects, and warriors; and the vast domains they held for several centuries, were not unfairly come by, but honourably acquired; and ultimately carried by female succession, into another noble family, who held them for many generations more.

The Aitons trace their descent, from the great and noble family of Vesceys, who held high rank in Normandy, eight hundred years ago, probably from the time that the heroic Rollo, conquered that province, about the year 880; and they were noblemen of the first rank in England, for nearly 300 years. The family of Vesceys, came from Normandy to England, with William the Conqueror; and their pedigree has been as correctly traced by Genealogists, as that of any noble family, in either England or Scotland, at periods so very remote.

Every person, who has made himself acquainted with the History of England, from the time of the conquest, by William

of Normandy, or who has consulted the Baronage of England, written by Sir William Dugdale, Norroy King at Arms, must have seen, that Robert Vescey, and Yvo Vescey, his brother, both held high rank in the Army of the Norman Leader, and acquitted themselves so gallantly, at the great and decisive battle of Hastings, that the conqueror rewarded the services of Robert, with a Gift of seventeen Lordships in England, which are all named by Sir William Dugdale, and are mostly situated in the Counties of Lincoln and Leicester. And that monarch also rewarded Yvo Vescey, from whom all the Aitons in Scotland are descended, with several fine Lordships, and to which succeeding monarchs made great additions; as may be seen by consulting Sir William Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. I., p. 89, and the numerous authorities which he quotes. And of which the following Genealogical account is the substance, in so far as relates to the pedigree of the Aitons, who are descended from the Vescey family.



## CHAPTER I.

### *Genealogical Account of the Noble Family of Vescey, Lords of Alnwick.*

YVO VESCEY, who held a high rank in the army of William of Normandy, when he invaded England, anno 1066, was rewarded by the conqueror, who, besides giving him sundry estates, bestowed on Yvo, Alda the daughter and sole heiress of William Tyson, lord of Alnwick, in Northumberland, and the lordships of Dalton, in the county of York. Gilbert Tyson had fallen with king Harold, in the battle of Hastings, and the conqueror, according to the usages of the feudal times, bestowed the daughter of William Tyson, on Yvo Vescey, in reward of his valour at that battle. And he also rewarded his services, with other lands. Yvo had two sons by his wife Alda Tyson, Eustachus his successor, and Lagi the father of Gilbert, from whom the family of Aitons are descended, as will be noticed in course.

EUSTACHUS or EUSTACE VESCEY, took the surname of Fitz-John, from his being the nephew and sole heir of SERLO DE BURGH, founder of Snarsburgh castle, and whose father John, was called Monoculus, from his having only one eye. Eustace succeeded to that lordship, on the death of his uncle, and it was held by the family, till the reign of king John. AILREDUS, an old historian, says that Eustace "was one of the chiefest "Peers in England, and was in intimate familiarity with king "Henry I, and a person of great wisdom and council." Besides the extensive domains he inherited from his father and uncle, Eustace received from that king, other large estates, of which Sir William Dugdale gives the names. The king also appoint-

ed Eustace, Governor of Bamburgh castle, in the county of Northumberland. But having, after the death of Henry, joined the party that supported the claims of Maud to the Crown, king Stephen deprived Eustace of the command of Bamburgh castle: When David king of Scotland, invaded England, Eustace surrendered Alnwick castle, and intended to have yielded to him that of Dalton, in the county of York. For these favours, Henry earl of Northumberland, son of the king of Scotland, who then held a sort of dominion in that county, under the king of England, confirmed to Eustace Vescey, his whole estates in Northumberland, and gave him in addition thereto, the manors of Brentune, Propertune, Pashasten, and Scrunastane; with five Knights' fees more, that had been held by Robert Nuvant. Eustace having afterwards made up matters with king Stephen, he gave him Snarsburgh, and Burgh, two great lordships. Eustace de Vescey, married first a lady of the name of Beatrix, and after her death, Agnes daughter of William Fitz Nevel, baron of Halton, in the county of Chester, of which he was Constable. Eustace was slain in an Expedition against the Welch, in 1157. The historians of that period, are reported by Sir William Dugdale, to have said that Eustace de Vescey was "a great and aged man, and one of the chiefest English Peers, most eminent for his wealth and wisdom." By his first wife he had two sons, William his successor, and Godfrey. And by his second wife, he had Richard Fitz Eustace, from whom the noble families of Glan-dering, and Lace earls of Lincoln, derive their descent.

WILLIAM DE VESCEY, eldest son of Eustace, succeeded his father, and was by the king appointed Sheriff of the county of Northumberland. When the king levied aid on the marriage of his daughter, William Vescey certified his Knight's fees, to be great both in England and Ireland. He commanded the English army, that defeated and took prisoner king William Lion, near Alnwick. William's first wife was Burga, sister to Robert de Stutevil, lord of Snarsburgh, by whom he obtained Langton, and by whom he had Eustace his son, and successor.

His second wife was Agnes (Chalmers calls her Margaret) daughter of William Lion, king of Scotland, by whom he obtained the barony of Sprouston and other estates in Scotland; she also brought him a son, of whom Sir William Dugdale gives no account.

EUSTACE DE VESCEY, was sent by the English monarch, Ambassador to Scotland, and employed to collect Scutage (a war tax) from Scotland, Wales, and Northumberland; and on accounting was discharged with twenty four Knights' fees, and one-third part. On the commencement of a war against Wales, Eustace retired to Scotland, on which account, king John forfeited his estates in England, and demolished the castle of Alnwick. A reconciliation with the king was soon effected, and Eustace had his estates restored. But a new and curious quarrel soon arose. Eustace had to wife, the sister of Alexander II., king of Scotland, not by wresting her from her proper husband, against her will, as was done with the daughter of James II., the wife of lord Boyd, but in a more decent manner. This lady being a great beauty, the libidinous king John, wishing to get her into his power, asked from her husband, his favourite ring, on pretence of having one made like to it. But instead of using the ring as he pretended, the king sent a message to the lady, to meet her husband at a particular place, and sent the ring as a token from her husband. The lady set out for the appointed place, but by accident met her husband on the road, where an explanation was made, that defeated the villainous purposes of king John upon that lady. But that he might not be altogether deprived of amusement, Eustace engaged a wench of slender virtue, and having provided her in suitable clothes, and given her instructions how to personate the other lady, she was palmed on the king, as the wife of Eustace. Some time after, the king complimented Eustace on the beauty of his wife, and said he had received her favours. But on being told by Eustace that it was only a prostitute he had met with, the king was so much displeased, that Eustace found it necessary to retire, with others of the English nobility,

into Scotland for safety. But when John had, by his folly and extravagance, lost Normandy, which his family had held for more than 300 years, been excommunicated by the Pope, and had roused his subjects to Rebellion, Eustace was one of the twenty four Barons appointed to manage the Government of the realm; and who were all laid under excommunication in their turn, as king John had been before them. Eustace was one of the barons, who had joined with Alexander king of Scotland, his brother-in-law, to invite Louis of France to invade England. But when Eustace was besieging Barnard castle, sometime after the Magna Charta had been extorted from king John, at Runemede, and shortly before the king's death, Eustace was shot through the head by an Arrow; and was succeeded by his son.

WILLIAM DE VESCEY, who, being in minority, was put under the tuition of the earl of Pembroke, who was then Regent for Henry III. It was during the life of this William, and probably while he was minor, that the lordship and castle of Snarsburgh, which his great grand father Fitz John, had succeeded to, by the death of SERLO DE BURGH his uncle, was by the king, taken from the family of Vesceys, and given to William de Scutevil. William Vescey married first Isabel daughter of the earl of Salisburgh; and afterwards, Agnes, daughter of William de Terrers, earl of Derby, and by her acquired an estate in Kildare, Ireland. Sir William Dugdale, enumerates, and gives the names of the lordships, manors, and estates, held by William de Vescey, and which were upwards of *Forty in number*.

JOHN DE VESCEY, succeeded his father William, and being in minority, his wardship was committed to Peter de Savoy. John was one of the king's principal generals, in the wars in Gascoign. But having afterwards joined Montfort, earl of Leicester, and other rebel barons, John was taken prisoner, at the battle of Chesham, where prince Edward rescued his father, king Henry III. from the rebels. John de Vescey was afterwards admitted to composition, and joined the Cruisaders in



Palestine. After his return from the Holy land, he was by Edward I., appointed Governor of Scaresburgh castle. John married Mary, sister of Hugh de Lazine, earl of March and Engolesm, who died soon after. John married next, Isabel de Beaumont, who was nearly related to queen Eleanor, and on that account he obtained from the king, lands and manors in Northumberland, of the yearly value of 248 merks, 48 pounds and four shillings. John Vescey was in the wars of Gascoign, and brought over from that province, some troops that served king Edward in his wars against the Welch. Having given the lordships of Roderham, and some other lands to the Monks, John died without surviving issue, and was succeeded by his brother.

WILLIAM DE VESCEY, who was brother of John, and second son of William their father, succeeded his brother. William having been in great favour at court, was by the king appointed Justice of the forest of Trent, one of the justices itinerant of England, governor of Scaresburgh castle, and a justice in Ireland, where he held large estates. Gilbert de Clare, earl of Chester, accused William de Vescey, of felony; and John Fitz Thomas said, that William had solicited him to join in conspiracy against the king, and challenged William to single combat. These parties were summoned before the king, where William Vescey appeared in armour, to do battle, in support of his injured fame: but his accusers having failed to appear, he was honourably acquitted. The king gave him a renewed grant of all his lands lying in England; but William resigned to the crown, his estates in the county of Kildare, and that of Sprouston in Scotland, on being discharged of all debts due by him to the crown. Sir William Dugdale mentions two wives that William Vescey had married, viz. first a daughter of William de Ferrers, earl of Derby; and after her death, a daughter of Adam de Pereton. And it would also appear, that William had a son of the name of John, who Dugdale says was matched with Clementia, a kins-woman of queen Eleanor. But he adds that having no issue to survive him at his death, William, with

the king's licence "infeoff" Anthony Beke, bishop of Durham, in the castle and lordship of Alnwick, and in some other of his lands, *in trust* for behoof of William his natural son; to whom he also conveyed absolutely, the domains of Hotonruscal and other lordships. William de Vescey died at Dalton, in 1297.

WILLIAM DE VESCEY, natural son of William last mentioned, succeeded his father, and was generally designed "William of Kildare." William served in the expeditions of Edward I. into Scotland, and married Maud, daughter of Thomas Nivel, of Letham. But bishop Beke pretending some offence at William, refused to make over to him the lordship and castle of Alnwick, or other estates conveyed to him *in trust* for William's behoof; but sold Alnwick to Henry de Percy, ancestor of the duke of Northumberland, on the 19th of November 1309, for the sum of seven hundred merks sterling; and the noble family of Percy, have held the lordship of Alnwick ever since. This William, who was the last of the name of Vescey, mentioned by Sir William Dugdale, was killed at the battle of Bannockburn, when fighting for Edward II., 25th June, 1314. And having no lawful issue, he was succeeded in the remainder of the Family estates, by Gilbert Aiton, who was the lenial descendant of Gilbert, grandson of Yvo Vescey, the founder of both families.

Thus it appears from the foregoing Genealogical account, which is in substance that of Sir William Dugdale, who has been long and justly esteemed an accurate Biographer, that Yvo de Vescey, who held high rank in the army of William of Normandy, married Alda, the daughter and heiress of William Tyson, lord of Alnwick,—that Eustace their eldest son, carried on the line of Vesceys, lords of Alnwick, which passed through the seven descents, and eight successions of that family given above, when from the failure of male issue in the main stem, the succession opened to a collateral branch of the same family, who had assumed for several generations, the surname of Aiton, (or Aton, according to Dugdale,) from their principal estate of that name, in the county of Berwick. But who were

not only descended from Yvo Vescey, the founder of that family in England, but who were intermarried with that family, so that the remains of their family domains fell, on the death of William Vescey last mentioned, to Gilbert Aiton, as heir-at-law to the great family of Vescey, lords of Alnwick. The pedigree of the Aitons falls to be traced in

## CHAPTER II.

### *On the Origin and Pedigree of the Aitons of Aiton, in Berwickshire.*

Sir William Dugdale, besides giving the pedigree of the noble and illustrious family of Vescey, lords of Alnwick, from the year 1066, till they failed of male issue in the main stem, by the death of William Vescey in 1314, as given in substance in the preceeding Chapter; has also drawn up, a Genealogical account of the family of Aitons, who were a collateral branch of that of Vescey, springing from the second son of Yvo Vescey, the founder of that family in Northumberland; and who, after several generations, succeeded to the estates and honours of the family of Vescey, in 1314. Sir William Dugdale, after bringing down the family of Vescey, to the death of William, at the battle of Bannockburn, introduces the family of Aitons, (or Aton, as he writes the name,) in nearly the following words. On the death of William Vescey, his lands in Yorkshire (those in Northumberland having been unfairly sold by bishop Beke) returned to the heirs of William de Vescey his father, viz. Gilbert Aton, who was son and heir of William Aton; brother and heir of Gilbert; son and heir of William; son and heir of Gilbert Aton, of Aton, in Pickering Lethe, by Margaret his wife, daughter and sole heir of William de Vescey; brother of Eustace de Vescey; father of William; father of John and William: which last mentioned William having no issue, but the above William, the bastard, (who died without issue as has been mentioned,) the title of lord Vescey, descend-

ing to Aton, came through Broomfleet to the family of Clifford, late earls of Northumberland.

Besides this, which terminates Sir William Dugdale's Genealogical account of the family of Vescey, lords of Alnwick, he gives the pedigree of the Aitons *per se*, in the second volume of the Baronage of England, page 98. The first of the name was Gilbert, who lived in the reign of Henry I., holding, Sir William says, the lordship of Aton in Pickering Lithe. Gilbert was succeeded by William his son, and William was in his turn, succeeded by Gilbert Aton his son, who married Margerie, the daughter and heir of Warine de Vescey, a younger son of William de Vescey, lord of Alnwick, in Northumberland. William Aton, who succeeded Gilbert his father, made large donations to the Church. To William succeeded Gilbert his son, who, dying without issue, was succeeded by William his brother. William left issue, a son named Gilbert, who received Charters to Barnedy, Holney, and Knapton. William Aton was summoned to appear at Newcastle, to oppose the Scots; and he was found to be heir of law to William Vescey, the father of William the bastard, who was killed at the battle of Bannockburn. Gilbert was succeeded in his own estates and honours, and also in those that remained of the illustrious family of Vescey, by William Aton his son and heir, who was appointed sheriff of York, and governor of the castle of York. William Aton also founded the Chantry of the Chapel of Saint John the Baptist, in the Manor of Aton, in Pickering Lithe.

Thus far, has Sir William Dugdale traced the origin and pedigree of the Noble and illustrious family of Vescey, and that of the Aitons, who are descended from them. His account might have been better arranged, and rendered more intelligible: but surely none will call in question, his history in general, backed as it is, by many authorities, which he quotes; but which are too numerous, and too antiquated, to be easily come at, and therefore need not be given here. Such as feel inclined to pursue that enquiry, may find a Key to these authorities, in Sir William Dugdale's Baronage. It is proper to mention



however, that this account, though abridged, and frequently in different language from that used by Sir William, is substantially the same account as given by him, in his *Baronage of England*, respecting the families of Vescey and Aiton. If Sir William Dugdale has written correctly as to these families, as he is understood to have done in his account of the pedigree of other great families, this sketch, though abridged, must be correct in substance. And if that great Biographer, has committed errors in these instances, they are such as the writer of this account has not been able to detect.

The sum and substance of this account as given by Sir William Dugdale, as to these families, is, that Yvo Vescey, who held high rank in the army of William the Conqueror, acquired by marriage, the lordship of Alnwick in the county of Northumberland, and also the lordship of Dalton in Yorkshire, both of which had formerly belonged to the noble family of Tyson,—that he and his offspring acquired, by royal favour, marriages, or otherwise, (and not by fraud or treachery like some that could be pointed out,) many other Lordships and Manors—that they intermarried, with families of the English Peers of the first rank in their times—that two of the family of Vescey, were married to the daughters of the kings of Scotland, while two more of them had for wives, the near relatives of Eleanor queen of England—and that it does not appear, that any of these ladies were forced into such connections, while they had other husbands in life; like the sister of king James III. And Sir William Dugdale has also shown, that the family of Aiton, are sprung from that of Vescey: that these two families were so much intermarried, and connected with each other, that when the family of Vescey failed in the male line, in 1314, the Aitons were found to be their heirs-at-law, and succeeded to their honours, and to what remained of their valuable estates. So far Sir William Dugdale.

The only other authority necessary to be referred to on this head, is Mr Nisbet, who writes on *Heraldry*, and the continuator of his works, who, on pointing out the origin of the Aitons,

or Eytons, says in his remarks on Pryennes history, respecting the fealty sworn by the Scottish nobility, great Land holders, Clergy, &c., to Edward I., in the year 1292, 1296, and 1297, as contained in what is termed "Ragman-Roll," of which a copy is appended to his system of Heraldry, pages 40 and 41, where on naming William Eyton of Eyton, as one of the *Magnaes Scotiae*, he says "This was a very ancient family, and sprung  
 "from the great family of Vesceys in England. They had the  
 "great Barony of Sprouston in the south. The Ayton family  
 "was come of Gilbert de Vescey, who getting the lands of Ayton  
 "in the Merse, took his Surname from the lands, as was usual,  
 "or rather the common ordinary way and practice. They  
 "continued till king James III's time, that a brother of the  
 "house of Hume married the heiress, and came to be designed  
 "George Hume of Ayton.

That the family of Eytons in the Merse continued, as Nisbet has stated, to inherit the estates to which they succeeded by the death of William Vescey, who fell at Bannockburn, until they were carried by a female to the family of Hume, in the reign of James III; is well known and attested in the histories of that period. And if it were necessary, the direct line of the family might easily be traced in the Public Records, from the time that William Eyton swore fealty to Edward I. down to the lady who carried the estate with her to another family. And it would also be easy, to trace the line of the Humes of Eyton, from the time they acquired the Estate, in the reign of James III., till it was forfeited by James Hume, or Home, for having been concerned in the Rebellion in 1715. But as nothing of importance could be gained by such research, the matter will for the present, be allowed to rest upon the authority of Nisbet, and that of general history.

## CHAPTER III.

*The Origin and Pedigree of the Aytouns, of Aytoun, in the County of Fife.*

It appears from the quotations made in the last chapter from Nisbet, that after tracing the family of Eytons from the noble family of Vescey, that Author says, page 41., The lady who carried the Estate into the Hume family “had an uncle, her father’s brother, Andrew Ayton, Captain of the castle of Stirling in the days of king James IV., to whom that king gave by his charter *pro fidei & bono Servitio terras de nether Dunmure in vici comitatii de Fife*, in the year 1507. By a new charter from the crown, the lands were called Ayton, and the Family of that Ilk. Sir John Ayton of that Ilk, left two sons, Robert, who upon succeeding to his uncle Robert Colvel, of Ochletree, in 1729, assumes the surname of Colvel. The second, Andrew Aytoun, Esquire, late provost of Glasgow, who represents his paternal ancestors, and carries their arms. They had some cadets, as Ayton of Inchdairney; Ayton of Keppo; Ayton of Kenglassie; Ayton of Kenaldie.”

As this enquiry has been instituted, more from curiosity, than for any very important purpose, the pedigree of the principal branch of the clan, would probably have been left to rest on general history, in addition to what has been quoted from Nisbet. But John Aytoun Esquire of Inchdairney, having been recently served heir in general, to Andrew Aytoun, the founder of the Aytouns in Fife, and who, after the death of his brother in the Merse, stood at the head of the clan, the evidence adduced in that service, and which now stands in record, places the pedigree of the main stem of the name, or chieftain of the

clan, on the most authentic footing, in the person of John Aytoun of Inchdairney. And the line of descent from Andrew Aytoun to him runs as follows:—

ANDREW AYTOUN, second son of — Aytoun or Eyton in the Merse, uncle to the lady who carried the family estates to the Humes, was governor of the castle of Stirling, and sheriff of the county of Elgin and Forres, in the reign of king James IV., as appears from his commission from that monarch, bearing date 7th February, 1500. He obtained a charter to the lands of Kilgour 22d November 1504; another to the estate of Glenducky in the barony of Ballanbrough, 12th June 1506; and one to the lands of Wester Dunmuir in the county of Fife, 2d January 1507. He married Isabel, daughter of — Kencragie of that Ilk, by whom he had three sons, viz., John who succeeded him; Robert who became the founder of the family of Aytouns of Inchdairney, of whom in course, and Andrew, the founder of the Aytouns of Kenaldie. Andrew Aytoun Senior, died in September 1547.

JOHN AYTOUN of Dunmuir, succeeded to Andrew his father, and was served heir to him 19th April 1558. He married Isobel Barclay, who brought him Andrew Aytoun his successor.

ANDREW AYTOUN of Dunmuir, succeeded his father John; and obtained a charter to the estate of Glenducky, 2d February 1542. He married Elizabeth Wemyss, by whom he had three sons, viz., John his successor; Robert who became founder of the Aytouns of Craighfuddie, and whose charter to the lands of Pittencondie bears date 27th April 1583. He married Margaret Ingles, who brought him a son Robert Aytoun of Cluny, and he succeeded his father in the estate of Craighfuddie: his service is dated 18th April 1619: and he was infefted in the lands of Kenloch 30th November 1519. But it is understood that the line of this branch is now extinct. Andrew Aytoun of Dunmuir, was never married, but made over his property to Andrew Aytoun, advocate, his natural son, who stood infeft in the lands of Logie in 1637. He had only one daughter, who married John Preston of Airdrie.



**JOHN AYTOUN**, son of Andrew Aytoun of Dunmuir, is mentioned in the Manuscript Genealogies, collected by Sir James Balfour, Lyon King at Arms, kept in the Advocates' library. He married Ann Wemyss, by whom he had a son Andrew his successor, and a daughter Catherine Aytoun.

**ANDREW AYTOUN**, son of John, was served heir in special to his father in the lands of Dunmuir 5th October 1581, and in the lands of Glenducky 4th March 1601. And Robert Aytoun of Craighfuddie was served tutor at law to Andrew 5th October 1581. Having completed his titles, he surrendered his lands of Dunmuir to the king, and obtained a new charter erecting them into a free Barony, to be called in time coming the Barony of Aytoun. His wife was Ann Lundi, who brought him one son and four daughters.

**Sir JOHN AYTOUN** of Aytoun, succeeded his father Andrew to whom he was served heir in the lands and barony of Aytoun, comprehending those of Dunmuir, dated 4th October 1625. Sir John married, 18th April 1606, lady Elizabeth Wemyss, fourth daughter of the earl of Wemyss, and she brought him four sons, viz. John his successor, David who died without issue, and two more, names unknown, who both died in infancy.

**Sir JOHN AYTOUN** of Aytoun, who succeeded his father of that name, married first Magdalene, daughter of Sir William Stewart of Innerneety, by whom he had three sons, viz. William his successor, John an advocate, and David a merchant, who both died without issue. Sir John married next, Margaret, eldest sister of the last lord Colvell of Ochletree, by whom he had two sons, Robert Aytoun Colvell of Ochletree, and Andrew Aytoun who became provost of Glasgow—of both of whom in course.

**WILLIAM AYTOUN**, advocate, eldest son of Sir John Aytoun, sold the estate of Aytoun, and died unmarried.

**ANDREW AYTOUN**, youngest son of Sir John Aytoun, became a merchant in Glasow, and was provost of that city in the years 1738 and 1739, having been a magistrate of the city some time before. He married Isobel Stirling, by whom he had

three daughters, but no male issue. Of his daughters, Janet the youngest died unmarried. Isobel the second, married her cousin german Peter Colvell of Ochletree, but had no surviving issue. And Margaret the eldest of these ladies, having married Andrew Blackburn, and had issue, they succeeded at the death of Peter Colvell, to the lordship of Ochletree in Fife, which their heirs still enjoy.

**ROBERT AYTOUN COLVELL**, eldest son of Sir John Aytoun, by his second marriage, succeeded to the estates of lord Colvell his maternal uncle, and took the name of Colvell. He married Janet Wedderburn, who brought him four sons, viz. Robert who died young, Peter his successor, and John, and James, who both died young.

**PETER COLVELL** of Ochletree, married his cousin Isobel Aytoun, one of the daughters of Andrew Aytoun, provost of Glasgow, who brought him two sons, Robert and Andrew, both of whom died young, and several daughters, who had no issue; so that with Peter Colvell, the male issue of Andrew Aytoun, provost of Glasgow, terminated. And there being no other male issue of Andrew Aytoun, the founder of the Aytouns in Fife, so near as the Inchdairney family; they have since stood at the head of the clan of Aytouns in Scotland. On the death of Peter Colvell in 1798, the estates of the late lord Colvell, devolved on the daughters of provost Andrew Aytoun, and their heirs; of whom Andrew Colvell, now of Ochletree, is one.

It has been mentioned, that Andrew Aytoun who planted that clan in Fife, had, besides John his successor, a son Robert, who became the founder of the family of Aytouns of Inchdairney; and to whom we must now return.

**ROBERT AYTOUN**, second son of Andrew Aytoun, the common ancestor of the Aytouns in Fife, and who became the founder of the Inchdairney family, obtained from king James V., and the duke of Albany, on the 9th July 1516, (in favours of Isobel Kincraggy his mother and himself,) a gift of ward of the barony of Quilts in Fife. There was also laid before the Jury, at the service of John Aytoun, now of Inchdairney,

a receipt by David Barclay of Callarney, to Robert Aytoun, as tutor to Andrew Aytoun his nephew, for the sum of "ten Merkes of usual mone, for the said Androe's sustentacion, efter the forme of ane puntment maid betwixt us yacer upon." And also a gift of Ward, by James Lundye of Balgoney, in favour "of Robert Aytoune, the soun of Umquhile Andrew Aytoun of Dunmure, the ward of All and Hail the lands of Doverne, and Myldene of Doverne, with the tenand and tenandrie of the Samyn, &c." dated the last day of October "in the zere of God I.M., five hunderth twenty and one zeres." Several other such documents were laid before the Jury. Robert Aytoun likewise obtained from the commendator of Dumfermline, a feu tack of the lands of Inchdairney in 1539. He married a daughter of Lundi of Balgonie, who brought him a son and successor.

ROBERT AYTOUN, second of Inchdairney, married Elizabeth Pitcairn, daughter of — Pitcairn of Forthar, who brought him a son George, who became his successor. This appears from a Feu charter granted by the commendator of Dumfermline, to "Honorabile viro Roberto Aytoun in Inchdairney, et Elizabeth Pitcairne, sponsæ suæ," dated 3d January 1560; and a charter from the crown, confirming that by the commendator, dated 9th August 1586; and other vouchers.

GEORGE AYTOUN of Inchdairney, had a charter in 1586; and married Christian, daughter of Ramsay of Corston, who brought him Robert his successor.

ROBERT AYTOUN of Inchdairney, was served heir to his grand father, in 1649; and married Hellen, daughter of Hamilton of Kelbrachmont, who brought him a son and successor.

JOHN AYTOUN of Ichdairney, obtained a charter in 1651. He married Jean, daughter of James Stewart of Rosyth, and grand daughter of Napier of Marchistoun, by whom he had Alexander his son and successor.

ALEXANDER AYTOUN of Inchdairney, was served heir to his father in 1684, and married Margaret Hog, daughter of lord Marcus. Their son and successor was



ROGER AYTOUN of Inchdairney, who obtained charters to his estates in 1713. He married first Barbara Scott, who had no issue, and next Euphemia, daughter of Sir John Ramssay, Baronet of Whitehill. His son and successor by her was

JOHN AYTOUN of Ichdairney, who was served heir to his father in 1748, and married Isobel, daughter of lord Robert Rollo, who brought him his successor.

ROGER AYTOUN of Inchdairney, Major General in the army, was served heir to his father in 1784. He married first Mrs Mynshull of Charletonhall, Lancashire, by whom he had no issue; and second, Jean Sinclair, daughter of John Sinclair of Balgregie. At the time of his death in 1810, general Aytoun stood at the head of the clan Aytoun. He was succeeded by his son

JOHN AYTOUN Esquire, now of Inchdairney, who having been served heir in general to Andrew Aytoun, second son of — Eytoun of that ilk in the Merse, and uncle to the lady who carried the family estate to the family of Humes;—who was sheriff of Elgin and Forres,—and who first planted the family of Aytons in Fife.—He now stands incontestably at the head of the clan Aytoun, who are descended from the noble and very ancient family of Vesceys, who were lords of Alnwick for three hundred years. He married Margaret Anne Jeffray, daughter of doctor James Jeffray, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Glasgow, and has issue.

Having thus traced the descent of the main stem of the family or clan of Aytouns, from Yvo Vescey, who came from Normandy to Britain in 1066, down to John Aytoun of Inchdairney, now the undoubted chieftain of the Aytouns, and the proper male representative of the ancient, powerful, and honourable family of Vesceys; it is not necessary, and cannot be expected, that the whole tribe should be traced through all their ramifications; though they have neither been very numerous, nor much dispersed. But it may not be improper, before leaving the Fife colony of Aytouns, to state, that the Kenaldie branch mentioned by Nisbet or his continuator, sprung from Andrew, third son

of Andrew Aytoun patriarch of the colony. This family continued till 1756, when the last of them, having failed of issue, conveyed the estate to one of his maternal relations, of the family of Monypennies of Pitmilly. The Aytouns of Kippo, also mentioned by Nisbet, were cadits of the Kenaldie family, and one of them, Sir John Aytoun of Kippo, was usher of the Black-rod, in the reign of Charles II. He died in 1700, and was succeeded by his nephew. There was a Sir Robert Aytoun of the Kenaldie family, who was some time secretary to queen Anne. And Sir Andrew Aytoun of that family, was a lord of Session, who having married the heiress of the Kinglassie family, took the title of Lord Kinglassie. He died about 1670, without surviving issue. The Kinglassie and Finglassie were the same family, and cadets of the Inchdairney family; being sprung from the second son of Robert, the second laird of Inchdairney. David Aytoun, advocate, who lived in the beginning of the last century, was also of that family. The Kinglassie family of Aytouns, ended in an heiress, who married a gentleman of the name of Douglas, the ancestor of Admiral Sir Charles Douglas, and of Sir Howard Douglas his son, governor of New Brunswick.

Besides these, and others that might be found out, several of the lairds of Inchdairney, had numerous families of sons and daughters; few of whom have been traced, except what is stated above. Roger Aytoun, W.S., and James Aytoun his brother, (both of whom have children,) are the sons of William Aytoun, W.S., who was the second son of Roger Aytoun, seventh laird of Inchdairney. General Aytoun had three sisters, but no brothers. He had five sons and three daughters, all yet alive. And the present laird of Inchdairney has several children.

Sir Robert Douglas in his Baronage of Scotland, mentions that George Seytoun of the family of Careston, married, in 1553, Margaret Aytoun, daughter of John Aytoun of that ilk; and that Sir Thomas Blair of Balthyock, Patrick Halket of Pitferan, and — Blair of Inchyran, were all married with ladies of that family. Douglas also states, that Sir Thomas Hope

of Craigyhall, married in 1645, a daughter of Sir John Aytoun of Aytoun. And Sir Archibald Hope of Cragyhall, who was a Lord of Session and Justiciary, in the reign of William and Mary, had his wife from the Aytouns of that Ilk. Mr Wood in his *Peerage*, Vol I., p. 361, mentions that Sir John Aytoun married Margaret, eldest daughter of Robert, second lord Colvell of Ochletree, and that Robert Aytoun, the eldest son of that marriage, succeeded on the death of the third lord Colvell, to the estates of Ochletree, which are now inherited by the offspring of Andrew Aytoun, late provost of Glasgow; as has been mentioned. And it also appears from the foregoing narrative, that the Aytouns of Inchdairney, and indeed all the principal branches of the clan, formed matrimonial connections, that were highly respectable: several of their wives being from noble families. It cannot be doubted however, that in the course of 800 years, through which the family is clearly traced, many of the clan must have fallen into laboring circumstances, and some of them sunk into poverty. But if any of the name have ever been convicted of crime, their case has not come to the knowledge of the writer of this account, though he has made enquiry into that matter.

But leaving to others to pursue the farther ramifications of the Aytouns in Fife, and the connections they have formed; this enquiry will now be directed to a colony of that name, who sprung from the Aytouns in Fife, and settled in Lanarkshire, during the latter part of the sixteenth century; and which still exists in that and the neighbouring counties.



## CHAPTER IV.

*Enquiry into the Rise and Pedigree of the Aitons in Lanarkshire.*

It is well known, that a number of families of the name of Aiton, have long resided in the parish of Avondale, Lanarkshire, and that they have multiplied, and extended, from thence to several other parishes in that county, Ayrshire, and more distant parts. The whole of these have sprung from two persons, one of whom settled first in the farm of Hookhead in Avondale, about the year 1570 or 1590, but afterwards acquired the lands of Waleslie and Heaslebank, in that parish. And the other individual, settled first in the farms of Stonyhill and Langrighead in that parish, and his son James Aiton afterwards became proprietor of the farm of Score-Tilloch, in the parish of Galston, Ayrshire, where his lineal representatives still reside.

That the founders of these families, came from the county of Fife, has been a tradition among their offspring, for two hundred years past; and that tradition is corroborated, by various circumstances. There never was a family of that name, in either Scotland or England, except that which sprung up in the Merse, and that which has resided chiefly in Fife, for more than three centuries past. The settlers in Avondale, must therefore either have sprung from the Fife colony of Aytouns, or what amounts to the same thing, they must be the offspring of the original stock, that acquired the estate of Eytoun, near the beginning of the twelfth century, and afterwards took their surname from the estate, according to the general fashion of that period. If it should be objected, that the Avondale Aitons, do not write their name, the same as those in Fife, or those of the Merse, the explanation given in the note at the beginning

of this pamphlet is referred to. The Aitons of Avondale however, continued for more than a century after they left Fife, to write their surname *Aytoun*, or *Ayton*; the grand father of the writer of this Inquiry, signed his name "*Aytoun*," but by far the greatest number of the colony, have changed the *Y* into *I*: and the names of many other families, have undergone similar, or still greater changes. Though there may be some doubt, as to which of the families of Aytouns in Fife, these settlers in Avondale came from, and though the year in which they crossed the Forth, has not been exactly ascertained: yet it is well known to some people still alive, that the Avondale Aitons, paid many friendly visits to their relations in Fife, within the last eighty or ninety years. While the Reverend Thomas Aiton, one of the Waleslie family, to be afterwards noticed, was minister of Alyth, from 1720 to 1735, and of the parish of Kilconquhar in Fife, from 1735 till his death, in 1739; some of his relations in Avondale generally visited him the one year, and he came to see them in Avondale the next year alternately. And on the Waleslie family going north, they frequently visited some of the families of Aytouns in Fife, and were well received and entertained by them, as distant relations and clansmen. Mrs Jean Aiton, one of the Waleslie family, and relict of James Hamilton, Esquire of Falla and Parkhead, who is still alive, in the 95th year of her age, remembers having accompanied her father, on a visit to the widow and family of the Reverend Mr Aiton, and they also visited some respectable families in Fife, of the name of Aytoun, who received them as relations or kinds-folks. And she, and others yet alive, remember to have heard Miss Margrat Aiton, her older sister, mention that when she had accompanied her father, and some of the Waleslie family, on a visit to the Rev. Mr Aytoun, they were invited to a party in the house of a gentleman of the name of Aytoun, who on that occasion had *twenty one* persons of that name, dining at his table. And the writer of this account, was informed by his grand father, that he had made a trip or two to Fife, along with his intimate friend the laird of Waleslie, and that they



had visited as clansmen, and hunted with some of the Aytouns in Fife. And from his own recollection of what his grandfather said, and which has been since repeated to him by his own father, and uncle, the writer of this account is certain, that his grandfather mentioned the Inchdairney family, as one of those to whom he was introduced, by the Reverend Mr Aiton : and where they were kindly treated as kinsmen of that respectable family. And the author has often heard William Aiton, last of Waleslie, who lived to the beginning of this century, mention the Inchdairney family, as having paid attention to his father and uncle, and treated them as relations.

Tradition bears, that the name of the founder of the Waleslie family, who came from Fife, and settled first at Hookhead, was John Aytoun, and that the name of the founder of the Tilloch family, who first settled at Langrighead, or Stonnyhill, was Andrew Aytoun. As his son James Aiton, who was born about 1630, and lived till after 1720, informed his family, and particularly told William Ayton, who was his youngest son, that his grandfather's name was Andrew ; and as William Aiton said so to the writer of this inquiry, who was his grandson, the author concludes with confidence, that the name of the founder of the Tilloch family, was Andrew Aiton : from whatever family he may have sprung.

That John Aytoun was descended of the Inchdairney family, is so far instructed, by the traditions and intercourse of the families that have been mentioned ; and these traditions are corroborated, or rather confirmed, by recent communications from that family. A letter from one member of the Inchdairney family, to the author, dated 28th August 1829, bears " There is a John Aytoun mentioned in our Tree, the second son of " Robert Aytoun the first laird of Inchdairney ; and his " brother's charter is dated 1560. Neither of these gentlemen " (meaning John and Andrew aftermentioned) are accounted " for, which makes it probable, that they left descendants. But " I do not see in any part of the Tree, two brothers John and " Andrew." Another member of the Inchdairney family,

writes to the author on 29th January 1830, "I remember how ever, having once had in my hands, a paper dated at Saint Andrews, about the year 1570 or 1590. This paper was the receipt of a sum of money, paid by Robert, or his son George, laird of Inchdairney at that time, to one of his younger brothers, of the name, I think, of John.—This John might have been your ancestor."

From these circumstances, concurring as they do, in dates, names, &c., there can little doubt remain, that John Aytoun the ancestor of the Waleslie family, was the second son of Robert, the first laird of Inchdairney, and that he settled in Avondale, about 1570, or before 1590. As to the cause of his having left Fife, nothing is known, except what is mentioned in rather a vague tradition, that he had incurred the displeasure of the Popish Clergy in St Andrews, and they were threatening him with persecution. That his crime, if he committed any, was not against the Government, may be inferred, from his having taken up his residence within forty miles of his native county, and in the vassalage of the Earl of Arran, then, or recently before, Regent for Scotland.

As to the founder of the Tilloch family, though it was certain his name was Andrew, the family from which he was immediately descended, is rather uncertain. One of the traditionary accounts, sets him forth as the brother, or near relation of John Aytoun, and that they left their native county about the same period, and for the same cause that tradition imputes to John. Another tradition is, that Andrew was one of the sons of John. This may have been the case, as we see that the Waleslie family count one generation more, soon after their settling in Avondale, than we find in the Tilloch family. This, however, may be accounted for otherwise. One of the family of Inchdairney, in the first letter above quoted from, says, "There is an Andrew Aytoun mentioned in our Tree, grandson of the third laird of Inchdairney, whose father was the third son. He is mentioned as having been served heir to his father, in 1622." And after mentioning John Ayton, the

letter bears that “ Neither of these gentlemen are accounted “ for, which makes it probable that they left descendants,” as above.

Taking, therefore, all these circumstances into view, it is clear, that the founder of the Tilloch family, was of the name of Andrew ; but whether he was the son of John, the patriarch of the Waleslie family, or the grand-son of the third laird of Inchdairney, remains to be ascertained. In either case he must have been a descendant of the Inchdairney family, who now stand at the head of the clan Aytoun.

Having thus stated what has been discovered of the founders of the Avondale colony of Aitons, it will be left to others to pursue the inquiry farther ; and the pedigree, first of the Waleslie, and next the Tilloch families, will be given to the present time.

## SECTION I.

### *Pedigree of the Aitons of Waleslie.*

JOHN AITON, the founder of the Aitons of Waleslie, came from the county of Fife, and settled in the farm of Hookhead in Avondale, sometime about 1570, or between that and 1590. And from the magnitude of that farm, (which has since been divided into six farms,) and from his grandson having purchased, what now forms three good farms, it may be presumed, that John Aiton did not leave Fife, with an empty pocket. Neither the name of his wife, the number of his children, nor the exact period of his death have been traced : but he was succeeded by his son

WILLIAM AITON in Hookhead, of whom little is known, except that he was the father of John Aiton, who became his successor.

JOHN AITON, succeeded his father William in the farm of Hookhead, and afterwards bought the lands of Waleslie, and those of Heaslebank from — Robb. The author of this

inquiry, is certain that he has seen the original Disposition, granted by Mr Robb to John Aytoun, but which it seems has been since abstracted from the progress of writs of that estate; and that matter is not so important, as to require a search of the register. That John Aiton became proprietor of these lands (sometime about 1670 it is believed) is instructed, by the charter his son obtained from the superior, to be afterwards mentioned, and which is still preserved, and forms a part of the title deeds of the lands. Neither the name of his wife, nor the exact period of his death, have been discovered; but besides his eldest son William who succeeded him, he had a son Andrew, who became a mason in Strathaven, to be afterwards noticed.

WILLIAM AITON, second of Waleslie, obtained, upon the 9th of June 1716, from Thomas Aikman, Esquire of Broomleton, superior of the lands, a Precept of Clare-constat, for infefting William Aiton in the lands of Waleslie, *as eldest son and heir of John Aiton his father*. The name of his wife is not certainly known, but it is believed her name was Muir, and that she was of the family of Bruntwood. Besides William who succeeded him, he had a second son.

The Reverend Thomas Aiton, who was ordained minister of the parish of Alyth, in the county of Angus, in September 1720; and was translated to the parish of Kilconquhar in Fife in 1735. He married Barbara Haddow, daughter of Captain Haddow, from the parish of Douglas, or that neighbourhood; who had to take refuge in Holland, during the reign of James VII., and returned to Britain with William III.; but was maliciously shot, by a private hand, near to Dunkeld, soon after the battle of Killiecranky. Mr Aiton died at Kilconquhar in January 1739; and Mrs Aiton died there, in 1767. Their family consisted of two daughters, viz. MARGARET, born December 1724, and married to the Reverend Mr Williamson, minister of Arngash, in the county of Perth, but died a few months after, without issue. And JANET AITON born in August 1726, and married 17th November 1749, to John Wal-



ker, portioner at Kilconquhar, to whom she brought three sons, and eight daughters.\* But to return to the main stem of the Waleslie family.

**WILLIAM AITON**, third laird of Waleslie, the son of William A on of Waleslie, obtained from John Aikman of Broomleton, upon the 2d July 1757, a Précept of Clare-constat, for infesting him in the lands of Waleslie, &c.; and on which infestment followed, on 12th July that year. William married Christian Brown, daughter of Thomas Brown of Waterhead, (grand aunt to Nicol Brown, Esquire of Lanfine,) who brought him two sons, Thomas and William, and two daughters, viz. **MARGARET**, who died in 1799, unmarried; and **JANE**, now relict of James Hamilton, Esquire of Falla and Parkhead; but who never had issue. She is still alive, in the 95th year of her age. William died about the year 1754, and was succeeded by his eldest son

**THOMAS AITON** of Waleslie, writer to the signet, succeeded his father William, but dying soon after, the succession opened to

**WILLIAM AITON**, who succeeded his brother Thomas, obtained from Douglas duke of Hamilton, a précept of Clare constat, bearing date the 1st and 13th of July 1771, for infesting him in the lands of Waleslie, and on which infestment followed, on the 15th April 1772. William sold the lands of Waleslie,

\* Of the sons of John Walker and Janet Aiton, **THOMAS WALKER** was born 6th November 1751, and died in April 1824, leaving a son, James Walker, now in Jersey—**ROBERT WALKER**, born 5th April 1755, died at Shields in 1807, leaving one daughter Jane, who is married and has issue—**JAMES WALKER**, born 25th August 1763; died in infancy.—Of their daughters, **MARGARET WALKER**, born 7th September 1750, married David Sime, clerk to the British Linen Company, to whom she had a son, the Reverend **JOHN SIME**, assistant to the minister of Pittenweem; she died 17th May 1820—**SHUSAN WALKER**, born 8th October 1758, married Mr Forbes, Edinburgh, to whom she had issue, and died about 1800. **EFFIE WALKER**, born in 1761, married Alexander Wallace in Kilconquhar, and had issue—**HELENA WALKER**, born 23d August 1766, married Charles Ferrier, Edinburgh, and had issue—**BARBARA, MARION, JANET, and BETTY WALKERS**, all died without issue.

to James Hepburn, in 1782. William Aiton married Jean Smith, who brought him twelve children. Of these JOHN AITON, late of Jamaica, now portioner of Bothwell; CHRISTIAN AITON, spouse of Mr Davidson, seedsman in Glasgow, and JANET AITON, wife of William Wilson in Paisley, are the only survivors. David Aiton, and two of the name of Robert, all died when young. Thomas died in Jamaica, and William in Strathaven in 1797: both without issue. John Aiton, who now stands at the head of the Waleslie family, married Susan Hamilton, daughter of Gavin Hamilton Esquire, surgeon, Strathaven. James Aiton, late in Pollockshaws, who was second son of William Aiton last of Waleslie, and died in 1822, left a son William; who, failing issue of his uncle John, will be the principal representative of the Aitons of Waleslie. William Aiton, last of Waleslie, died in 1801.

But besides the main stem of the Aitons of Waleslie, a branch sprung from that family, and still exists in Strathaven, and in that parish. The founder of this branch was Andrew Aiton, second son of John Aiton, the first laird of Waleslie. Andrew became a mason in Strathaven, and it appears from a tombstone in that church yard, that he died in 1732, aged 59 years. His eldest son was John Aiton, mason in Strathaven, who died in 1758, aged 48 years. Andrew Aiton son of John, was also a mason in Strathaven, and died in 1765, aged 27 years; leaving an only son, John Aiton, now feuar in Udstonehead near Strathaven. John Aiton had by his wife Isabella Allan of the Netherfieldyke family, four daughters, Janet, Margaret, Isabella, and Hellen; all agreeably married.

ANDREW AITON, first of that name of this branch of the Waleslie family, had besides John, another son, of the name of James Aiton, who was a mason in Strathaven, and who died in 1790, aged 85 years, leaving an only son Andrew Aiton, shoemaker in Strathaven, who died in 1816, aged 73 years; and left a son Andrew, and two daughters, Jean and Janet. Andrew is now shoemaker in Strathaven, and has two daughters Jean and Marion.

JAMES AITON, mason in Strathaven, who died in 1756, was descended from the Waleslie family, but from which of them or their descendants, has not been ascertained. He had by his wife Barbara Park, three sons, James, John, and Andrew, and two daughters, Marion and Isabel. James, who was a mason in Strathaven, had, by Margaret Cooper his wife, one daughter, Mary Aiton, who married Thomas More, baker in Hamilton, and died in 1829, leaving several children. John Aiton, second son of James, died in Paisley in 1799, leaving two sons, James and John, and a daughter Mary. Of these James is dead, but has left two daughters. Andrew Aiton, third son of James, was also a mason in Strathaven, and died in 1828, leaving three sons, Andrew, James, and John. Marion Aiton is now the widow of John Dykes, tailor, Strathaven, to whom she brought several children. And Isabel Aiton, married Mungo Reid, weaver in Strathaven. James Aiton, labourer in Strathaven, was cousin to James Aiton, mason, whose family have been last described; but his pedigree has not been farther traced. James died in 1827, aged 75 years, leaving a son James Aiton, now weaver in Strathaven. John Aiton in Stonehouse, was brother of James Aiton, labourer.

## SECTION II.

*Of the Aitons in Langrighead and Stonnyhill, afterwards of Tillock.*

ANDREW AITON, the founder of the Tillock family of Aitons, and of those springing from them, it has been shown in the introduction to this chapter, was either the son of John Aiton, who settled in Hookhead, about 1570, or soon after that period; or more probably, he was the grand-son of the third laird of Inchdairney, and settled in the farms of Stonnyhill and Langrighead in Avondale, about the year 1620, or 1625; and his family occupied these farms till the year 1740. Neither the name of his wife, nor the exact period of his death, have yet

been traced out; but he was succeeded in these farms, by James Aiton, who seems to have been his only son.

JAMES AITON in Langrighead, who was born about the year 1630, married first a woman of the name of Cochran, from Torbolton, who brought him two sons, John and Alexander, of whom in course. And he had for his second wife ———, widow of Mr Steell of Carnsaugh, who brought him two sons, Andrew and William. James Aiton bought the farm of Score-Tilloch, in the parish of Galston; and died at Priestlandmill in that parish, in the year 1720, at something more than ninety years of age. Taking his sons in the order of their births, each will be traced separately, to the present period:

JOHN AITON, eldest son of James, the first laird of Score-Tilloch, succeeded his father in that property, and also in the possession of the farm of Cot-hill, which he held in lease. John, in his advanced years, gave up the lands to his son Andrew, and retired to Ralstonhill in the parish of Kilmarnock, where he taught a school, and died about the year 1755.

ANDREW AITON succeeded his father John, in the property of Tilloch, which he occupied till his death, in 1770. He had besides Andrew his successor, a son named John, who died when young, and without issue.

ANDREW AITON succeeded his father of that name, in the lands of Score-Tilloch, which he occupied till his death. He was born in 1747, and married in 1775, Mary M'Kutcheon, who brought him four sons and one daughter, viz. John Aiton, now of Score-Tilloch; Robert Aiton, farmer in Dunscore; Hugh Aiton, now in America; Andrew Aiton, in Riccarton-moss, and Jean Aiton, wife of Mr Micklereath of Black Clochery. Andrew Aiton of Tilloch died in 1811.

JOHN AITON, who succeeded his father Andrew in Score-Tilloch, was born in 1778, and has now by his wife Grizal Haddow, three sons, Andrew, Adam, and John; and two daughters, Isabel and Mary. Hugh Aiton, son of Andrew, is married, and has one son, John Aiton.

Having thus traced the main stem of the Aitons of Tilloch,



to the present time, it will be proper to return to the rest of the family of James Aiton, first laird of Tilloch, and to trace them in the order of their birth; following out each family to the same period.

ALEXANDER AITON, who was second son of James Aiton first laird of Tilloch, succeeded his father in the farms of Langrighead and Stonnyhill, which he continued to occupy till 1740, when he was appointed Manager of the Duke of Hamilton's Cattle; and died at Wham, in Hamilton Park, in 1762: leaving three sons, Andrew, James, and Thomas; and five daughters, Helen, Margaret, Christian, Jean, and Isobel—Of these in their order.

ANDREW AITON, eldest son of Alexander in Wham, and grand-son of James Aiton of Tilloch, became farmer in Dyke, in the parish of Galston, and married Isobel Steel, who brought him five sons, viz. Alexander, William, Thomas, Andrew and Robert. Andrew died in 1759.

ALEXANDER AITON, eldest son of Andrew in Dyke, died unmarried.

WILLIAM AITON, son of Andrew Aiton in Dyke, born in 1747, was farmer in Howlit-hole, and afterwards in Shawhead, parish of Stonehouse, and died in 1810: leaving two sons, Thomas and William; and four daughters, Janet, Margaret, Isobel, and Christian.

THOMAS AITON in Shawhead, son of William, was married to — Mutter, and has four sons, William, John, Robert, and Thomas, and five daughters, Mary, Jean, Isobel, Margaret and Janet, all residing with their father.

WILLIAM AITON, son of William in Shawhead, is now a weaver in Strathaven, and has by Margaret Browning his wife, six sons, viz. William, Thomas, Archibald, James, John, and Alexander; and four daughters, Barbara, Margaret, Agnes, and Charlotte. Of the daughters of William Aiton in Shawhead, Margaret is married to Thomas Bryce, smith in Chapel; Janet to Alexander Young, merchant in Strathaven; Isobel to William Greig; and Christian to Hamilton Mack, farmer Avondale

**THOMAS AITON**, third son of Andrew Aiton in Dyke, became a weaver in Stonehouse, and died in 1810: leaving two daughters, Janet and Mary.

**ANDREW AITON**, fourth son of Andrew in Dyke, died unmarried. And

**ROBERT AITON**, fifth son of Andrew Aiton in Dyke, and now farmer in Mount of Meadowhead, was born in 1757; married Elizabeth Craig in 1785, and had by her two sons, Andrew and James, both recently married; and two daughters, Elizabeth and Isobel, both also married. — Returning to the family of Alexander Aiton in Langrighead, and afterwards in Wham.

**JAMES AITON**, second son of Alexander Aiton in Wham, and grand-son of James Aiton first laird of Tilloch, was a mason and miller in Allanton mill, near Loudounhill. He had by his wife — Paterson, two sons, John Aiton, mason, who went to Canada in 1775, where he died in 1790; and Andrew Aiton, who was trepanned into the Duke of Hamilton's regiment in 1778, and was drowned on the coast of America, with about 150 more of that unfortunate regiment. James Aiton had by his second wife, Christian Wilson, a son Gavin Aiton, weaver in Dervil, who died in 1827: leaving two sons, Andrew and John. Of these, John is a weaver in Dervil, and has two sons, Gavin and Robert. Jean Aiton, daughter of James, was married to Robert Morton, smith in Dervil. James Aiton died in 1785.

**THOMAS AITON**, youngest son of Alexander Aiton in Langrighead, and afterwards in Wham, was bred a weaver in Hamilton, where he died in 1820, aged 80 years: He had by his wife Janet Hamilton, two sons, Thomas and Alexander; and eight daughters.

**THOMAS AITON**, son of Thomas, is a weaver in Hamilton, and has by his wife Janet Stout, one son Thomas, and two daughters, Agnes and Janet.

**ALEXANDER AITON**, son of Thomas Aiton senior, is a weaver in Hamilton, and has by Marion Revelton his wife, three sons, Thomas, Alexander, and John; and seven daughters, Elizabeth,

Janet, Marion, Margaret, Jean, Lillias, and Barbara. Of the daughters of Thomas Aiton senior, weaver in Hamilton, Isobel was married to James Martin; Marion to James Bailie; Margaret to John, son of the late James Paterson, Sheriff-substitute in Hamilton. Janet Aiton married to Robert Burns; Barbara to Thomas Smith; Semple Aiton to Thomas Paterson; Jean to William Burns, chemist in Saltcoats; and Ann to Alexander Watson. Of the daughters of Alexander Aiton in Wham, Helen was married to James Mair in Crookedside, parish of Loudoun; John Mair, now in Crofthead of Torbolton, is their grand-son. Margaret was married to Thomas Mackie in Hamilton; Christian to Richard Sillars there; Jean to James Kirkwood there; and Isobel to William Brown there. Isobel died in 1820, aged *upwards of one hundred years*.

Having thus traced the lines of Alexander and John Aitons, the two sons of James Aiton, first laird of Tilloch, by his first wife, to the present time; we must go back to his two sons of the second marriage, Andrew and William Aitons.

ANDREW AITON, third son of James Aiton of Tilloch, enlisted into the Scots Greys, where he was appointed Serjeant, and was wounded at the battle of Sheriffmuir in 1715; and died a few years after, unmarried.

WILLIAM AITON, youngest son of James Aiton of Tilloch, was born in 1682; commenced farming in Holyhill, in the parish of Galston, about 1714; removed to Waterhead in Muirkirk, in 1737, and died at Silverwood, in 1768. He had by Mary Campbell, daughter of John Campbell in Overmuir, two sons, John and Andrew; and three daughters, Margaret, Janet, and Mary.—Of whom and their respective progeny in their order.

JOHN AITON, eldest son of William Aiton in Waterhead, was born in 1715; married Martha Brownlee of the Torfoot family, and commenced farming in Airdochrig, about 1752, and died in Grougar, in 1791. Besides some children that died in infancy, John Aiton had a son William, who died unmarried in 1783, aged about 30 years; with Thomas and John to be noticed, and four daughters.



**THOMAS AITON**, son of John, was born in 1762, and is schoolmaster at Whirlford. By his wife Elizabeth Oliver, he has five sons, viz. John, Andrew, William, Thomas, and Oliver; and three daughters, Janet, Mary, and Martha.

**JOHN AITON**, youngest son of John Aiton in Airdochrig, is now weaver in Dervil, and has by Isobel Anderson his wife, three sons, John, Hugh, and William; and four daughters, Helen, Martha, Jean, and Janet. Of the sons, Hugh is married, and has a son of the name of John. Janet Aiton, daughter of John Aiton senior, was married to Robert Currie in Cree, parish of Fenwick, and brought him several children. Jean Aiton is now the widow of John Paton, farmer. Mary Aiton is the widow of James Aird; and Margaret Aiton died unmarried, about 1775; then twenty years of age.

**ANDREW AITON**, youngest son of William Aiton in Waterhead, and grand-son of James Aiton first laird of Tilloch of the name of Aiton, was born in 1722; commenced farming in Silverwood in the parish of Kilmarnock, in 1757; and was married to Jean Brown, daughter of Thomas Brown in Glaster, in 1759. Andrew Aiton removed to Woodhead of Loudoun, in 1778: and both he and his wife died there, in 1809. Their family consisted of four sons, William, Thomas, Andrew, and John; and one daughter, Margaret.—Of these and their Offspring in course.

**WILLIAM AITON**, son of Andrew Aiton in Woodhead, was born at Silverwood in January 1760; was married to Margaret Borland, daughter of Robert Borland, portioner of Kirkland, in June 1778; commenced Messenger at Arms in 1785; was admitted Notary Public in 1788; and appointed Sheriff-substitute for the county of Lanark in 1816. This last office he held for nearly seven years, with credit to himself, and giving general satisfaction to every one; except the Noble family of Hamilton, their doers, and satellites; who having formerly had the Sheriff Court of Hamilton, so much at their command, that the Lord Advocate Colquhoun, resolved to break up that court as a nuisance. And while Mr Aiton maintained his



independence, and that of the court over which he presided, the creatures of the Noble family, were his enemies, which he disregarded. But when the freak of "conciliation" came across the Government, and the present intelligent, active, respectable, chaste, and dignified Lord Advocate was attempted to be run down by that family, he consented to offer Mr Aiton as a scape-goat to "conciliate" the Hamilton family, and to carry his own political sins into the wilderness. Such is the uncertainty, to which the most faithful servants of the public, in subordinate situations, are at times exposed: even when they have discharged their duty conscientiously. The practitioners and litigants in that court, are the best judges, how far the removal of Mr Aiton, has been beneficial; and to them he appeals on that subject. Mrs Aiton died in 1820, having given birth to eight sons and four daughters: of whom, Robert, William, George, John, Mary, Margaret, and Jean, are alive; all the rest died in infancy.

ROBERT AITON, son of Sheriff Aiton, was born 3d October 1782; admitted Procurator before the Sheriff Court at Hamilton, in 1805; and married that year to Jean Hamilton.

Doctor WILLIAM AITON, second son now in life of Sheriff Aiton, was appointed assistant Surgeon in the Royal Navy, in 1807, and advanced to Surgeon in 1811. He took Degree as Doctor of Medicine in 1820, and is now (April 1830) serving in the Fleet at Navarino, in the Mediterranean. He married in 1817, Georgina Smith, daughter of James Smith, house-steward and confidential servant, to James Earl of Hopeton; and she brought him four sons, William, John, Sinclair, and James; and three daughters, Mary, Agnes, and Georgina.

GEORGE DOUGLAS AITON, third son now in life of Sheriff Aiton, was born 12th August 1791; married Marion, daughter of Alexander Patrick, Esquire of Woodcroft, in 1814, and has of children three sons, George, William, and Alexander; and four daughters, Marion, Margaret, Agnes, and Mary.

The Rev. JOHN AITON, youngest son of Sheriff Aiton, was born in June 1797; licensed Preacher in 1819, and ordained

Minister of Dolphington in 1825. He married that year Mary Ann Smith, daughter of the above named Mr James Smith, and sister of Mrs Doctor Aiton. Mrs John Aiton has brought her husband a son, who died on the day he was born; and two daughters, Mary and Margaret.

MARY AITON, eldest daughter of Sheriff Aiton, was born in 1779; married John Mitchell, afterwards Messenger in Hamilton, in 1798, Mr Mitchell died in 1827, at the age of 57 years. Their children were eight sons, and two daughters: of whom, Robert, writer in Hamilton; George, taylor there; Andrew, saddler there; and Margaret, spouse of John Bell; are the only survivors. John died at the age of twenty three; William at that of sixteen; and the others in infancy.

MARGARET AITON, second daughter now in life of Sheriff Aiton, was born in 1795; married to William Liddle, haberdasher in Strathaven, in 1810; and having become a widow in 1816, she married James M'Ghie in 1821. She brought her first husband three children, of whom only one daughter Margaret survives; and she has brought one son and three daughters to Mr M'Ghie.

JEAN AITON, youngest child of Sheriff Aiton, was born in 1804; and married to James Rodger, china and crystal merchant in Hamilton, in 1822. They have Margaret and Jean Rodgers now alive, Mary Rodger died when one year old.

Returning to the other children of Andrew Aiton in Woodhead.

THOMAS AITON, sometime in Woodhead of Loudoun, now at Troon, second son of Andrew Aiton, was born in 1764; married Jean Mason, daughter of Thomas Mason, principal servant to John Earl of Loudoun, in 1786; who brought him six sons, viz. Andrew, Thomas, William, James, John, and George; and four daughters, Ann, Jean, Catharine, and Henrietta. Of these

ANDREW AITON, eldest son of Thomas, is now farm-overseer to the Duke of Portland at Fullerton. Andrew married Christian Steel, in 1809, and has by her two sons, Thomas and William; and four daughters, Jean, Ann, Janet, and Christian.

**WILLIAM AITON**, son of Thomas, resides at Troon, and has by his wife four children, Thomas, Elizabeth, Jean, and Janet. **John Aiton** resides in Paisley; is married, and has children. **James Aiton** is resident in Greenock, and has a wife and some children. **Thomas Aiton**, second son of Thomas, died in 1820, at the age of 22 years. **George Aiton** died in 1825, aged 16 years. **Ann Aiton** died young; and **Jean Aiton** of that family, is married to **John Gilmour** in Rumpies, and has brought him several children.

Returning again to the family of **Andrew Aiton** in Woodhead; **Andrew Aiton** his third son, died in 1770, aged 5 years.

**JOHN AITON**, youngest son of **Andrew Aiton** in Woodhead, and who is now a carpenter in Liverpool, was born in 1770; married **Elizabeth Conner**, who brought him six sons, and six daughters. Of these, **John Aiton**, writer in Hamilton. **Ann Aiton**, spouse to **David Paterson**, schoolmaster of Dolphington. **Jean Aiton**, spouse to **W. F. Dû Fay**, professor of music and organist, Enniskeelin; and **Margaret Aiton**, residing with her parents, are the only survivors.

**MARGARET AITON**, only daughter of **Andrew** in Woodhead, was born in 1761; and married **William Woodburn**, builder in Kilmarnock, in 1780. She brought her husband two sons, who both died young; and she died in 1784.

Of the three daughters of **William Aiton** in Waterhead, the sisters of **John** and **Andrew Aitons**, and aunts of **Sheriff Aiton**, and of his brothers and sister; **Margaret Aiton**, born in 1718; married **William Wilson**, farmer in Whitehill, parish of Fenwick, and brought him three sons and five daughters, who have all been married and had children. **Margaret Aiton** died in 1781. **Janet Aiton**, second daughter of **William Aiton** in Waterhead, was born in 1720; married **James Dunlop** in Asloss, about the year 1746. She brought her husband a numerous family of children; of whom, **Robert Dunlop** in Beansburn, and **Mary Dunlop**, wife of **John Russell** in Inoch, are now the only survivors. **Mary Aiton**, youngest daughter of **William** in Waterhead, was born in 1723; married **Hugh Barr**, ten-

ementer in Kilmaurs, to whom she brought James Barr, Esquire of Burnthill; and Mary Barr, spouse of Allan Brown, Esquire of Beans Croft. Mary Aiton died in 1810.

### SECTION III.

#### *Of the Aitons in Carnwath.*

Besides the Avondale Colony of Aitons, already adverted to, a family of that name, has existed in the parish of Carnwath, Lanarkshire, for more than 150 years past, and still continue in that parish and its neighbourhood. The author of this pamphlet, has been anxious to discover, whether this branch of the clan, have proceeded immediately from the root of the tree in Fife, or from the Avondale branch; but the only evidences he has obtained, are, that the late John Aiton, who was sometime one of the Magistrates of Hamilton, to be afterwards noticed, and who was himself descended from the Aitons in Carnwath, often mentioned to the author, and to others of the Aitons from Avondale, that his grand-father, or his great-grand-father, had gone from Avondale, and settled in the parish of Carnwath. Baillie Aiton always paid attention to the Aitons in Avondale and Hamilton as kinsmen; and when the Funeral Sermon preached on the death of William Aiton his brother, (to be afterwards noticed,) was published, Baillie Aiton delivered copies of that sermon to some of the Lanarkshire Aitons, as distant relations to him and his brother. From these circumstances, and from the Aitons in Carnwath writing their name similar to their Avondale friends, and not like those in Fife: the author is of opinion, that the Aitons in Carnwath are sprung from some of the families of that name in Avondale; though it is uncertain from which of them, or the exact period they settled in Carnwath. It appears from an Assignation granted by John Aiton in Hookhead to Margaret Aiton, daughter of Archibald Aiton in Hookhead, of a bond for one



hundred Merks, dated July 1677 years, that besides the direct line of the Waleslie family, as given above, there has been a person of the name of Archibald Aiton in Hookhead, who must have been the son, either of John the founder of that family, or more probably the son of William the second of the name of Aiton in Hookhead, who was the father of the first laird of Waleslie, and who grants that assignation. As this Archibald Aiton is not otherwise accounted for, it is probable that he or his son, or grand-son, may have been the founders of the Carnwath family of Aitons.

Be that as it may, the Aitons in Carnwath, had been divided into two families, prior to the time they can be particularized with certainty: but that the heads of these families stood in the relations of cousins-german. The following is the only correct account the author has been able, after much enquiry, to collect.

JOHN AITON lived in Hillhouse in the parish of Carnwath, during the early part of last century; but he afterwards removed to Boghall, a large farm on the Estate of Westshield in that parish; where he died in 1740: leaving three sons, John, James, and William.

JOHN AITON lived in Forth in that parish, and had three sons, who all became gardeners.—Of these, John and Robert are in Leith, and Hugh is gardener to a gentleman in England. All of them are married and have issue.

JAMES AITON, second son of John Aiton in Hillhouse, was farmer in Climpny in the parish of Carnwath, and died there in 1803: leaving two sons, viz. John Aiton, now farmer in Milnrig in the parish of Liberton; and William Aiton, now proprietor of Climpny. John Aiton in Milnrig has three sons; John, William, and James; and four daughters, Jean, Margaret, Marion, and Elizabeth. But William Aiton of Climpny has no issue.

WILLIAM AITON, third son of John Aiton in Hillhouse, was farmer in Forth, where he died in 1796: leaving a son James, who died in 1825; but who left two sons, William and James, now both in Roughcrook, parish of Carnwath.

The other family of Aitons in Carnwath, has not been traced farther back than John Aiton who was farmer in Boghall, on the Estate of Westshields, from the beginning of last century, until some short time after the year 1731, when he left that farm and went to Woodhall, one of the seats of the Family of Campbells of Shawfield and Islay. John Aiton had been in such favour with the family of Sir — Denham of Westshields, that when one of his daughters was married to Daniel Campbell Esquire of Shawfield, she carried Mr Aiton with her to Woodhall to oversee the farm and cattle. And John Aiton in Hillhouse, first of the Carnwath branch mentioned above, succeeded John Aiton his cousin in the farm of Boghall. John Aiton died at Woodhall about 1750: leaving four sons, John, James, William, and — : to be noticed; and four daughters, who were all married to farmers, or respectable people of their own rank, in the vicinity of Woodhall; one of them, Mrs Riddle, lived to the age of 88 years.

JOHN AITON, eldest son of John Aiton in Woodhall, was born at Boghill in the parish of Carnwath, in 1711; and was, soon after he went to Woodhall with his father, appointed, first overseer of the farm, and afterwards factor upon Mr Campbell's Estates; and he held these offices, with much credit to himself, to the period of his death, in 1798. He resided many years in Hamilton, and was some time one of the Bailies in that burgh. He was twice married, but had no issue.

JAMES AITON, second son of John Aiton in Woodhall, was born at Boghall; and having been bred a gardener, he was employed many years by a family in Lancashire, who treated him kindly. He died there unmarried.

WILLIAM AITON, third son of John Aiton in Woodhall, was not born at Hamilton, as has been stated in some publications, but at Boghall in the parish of Carnwath, in 1731: and recently before his father removed from thence to Woodhall. He was bred a gardener, and having gone to London in 1754, to acquire greater knowledge in that art, he found employment in the Royal Gardens at Kew, where he conducted himself so correct-

ly, and became such a proficient in his business, and in Botany, that he was pointed out to the Princess Dowager of Wales, and his late Majesty George III., in 1759, as well qualified, to form and arrange a Botanical Garden at Kew: and which he did, to his own credit, and to the satisfaction of the Royal Proprietors of that National Institution. He continued to superintend that garden, till the period of his death in 1793. It was mentioned in his Funeral Sermon preached at Brentford, 17th February that year, and afterwards published, that Mr Aiton, under protection and encouragement of his Royal patrons,—“studied, and laboured for thirty four years, collecting from every corner of this country, and procuring from the remotest climes, the most rare and valuable productions of the vegetable creation. How far he has succeeded in this arduous, this useful, and laudable pursuit, the present state of that place, the accurate and elegant description, lately published by himself, with the unanimous approbation and praise of all proficient in the science of botany; are, the most undeniable testimonies.”

That sermon, and indeed every other account given of Mr Aiton, is highly creditable, not only to him, but “honourable to human nature.” “His rising in the world, went hand-in-hand, with the good-will and comfortable subsistence, of all around him. To the meanest labourer under him, he behaved with affability and gentleness. To him the poor man, who could, and would work, seldom or never sued for bread in vain.” Many gardeners were bred by him, and under his recommendations obtained comfortable situations in their profession.—Of these, Mr Douglas at Loudoun; Mr Hill at Kelburn; Mr Wilson at Halket; Mr Laughland at Eglinton; Mr Henderson at Woodhall, &c., are all known to the author to have been educated and patronized by Mr Aiton; and all of them have shown themselves worthy of his support.

Mr Aiton published in three volumes, *Hortus Kewensis*; a Botanical work of such celebrity, as induced the Botanists of Europe, to denominate a particular shrub “*AINTONIA*,” in

*Monica*

order still more to perpetuate his memory. "His name and fame extended to distant kingdoms, and to every quarter of the Globe." Mr Aiton died in 1793: leaving two sons, William Townsend Aiton, and John Townsend Aiton; and four daughters, Eliza, Jane, Sarah, and Anne.

WILLIAM TOWNSEND AITON, was, in 1793, honoured by King George III., to succeed Mr Aiton, in the charge of the Royal Gardens at Kew, and to those of Kensington, &c., in 1804. In the years 1810-14, he edited enlarged editions of the *Hortus Kewensis*, in five volumes; besides two editions of an *Epitome* of that celebrated work. And in 1828, King George IV., with great condescension, conferred on William Townsend Aiton, the honourable title of "Director General of His Majesty's Gardens."

JOHN TOWNSEND AITON has been by the King appointed "Deputy Director General of His Majesty's Gardens." And these offices are still held by the brothers.

The youngest son of John Aiton in Boghall, and afterwards in Woodhall, was bred to the profession of a gardener, and went to Russia, where he was employed in the gardens of the Emperor; but his history, or even his name, have not been traced by the author of this inquiry.

## CONCLUSION.

HAVING thus given a condensed account, of the main stem, and principal branches of the clan Aiton, from the arrival in Britain, of their earliest known ancestor, under the Banner of William the Norman Conqueror, in 1066, to the present time; it only remains to apologize to such of the clan, as the author, from want of information, has been obliged to pass over unnoticed, in this inquiry. For although the cadets of the Inchdairney family, do not seem to have been numerous, still there must have been many of them, of whom the author wanted the means of tracing out; and, therefore, could not introduce them



into this publication. As to the Lanarkshire colony of Aitons, he believes, that though some slight errors in dates, and the connection between two or three of the more remote branches of that tribe, have not been traced to the fullest evidence; yet he is confident, that the account he has given, is correct in substance; and that few, if any, of the Avondale branch, have been omitted; while the pedigree of the Inchdairney family, is as correct and well authenticated, as that of any family whatever. And when this Pamphlet shall have been perused by the clan, some of them, or their friends, may be able to give the author, such information, as may enable him to render this account still more complete, in an enlarged edition or otherwise. For while some families and their historians, have deceived the public, with fabulous pedigrees, from Bancos, or Dermids, or Sholtos, that never existed; or from Mellants, or Leceisters, with whom they can show no proof of connection; the pedigree of the clan Aiton, is clearly traced, from an origin far more remote, and better authenticated, than that of the greatest part of the Scottish Nobility. And nothing would give the writer of this account greater pleasure, than to be able to correct any error, into which he may have been led.

The paucity of the Aitons, compared with some clans, of more recent origin, can only be accounted for, by the more numerous clans having, when in power, been joined by other tribes. It is well known, that the M'Gregors and other clans, were compelled to join the Campbells, and to assume their name. And the Hamiltons, though they can show no proper evidences of a known pedigree, beyond the time of King Robert Bruce, and did not themselves (as their charters instruct) take the name of Hamilton, till the Reign of James II.; yet they are twenty, perhaps fifty times more numerous, than the Douglasses, who were more ancient, more honourable, and far more powerful than the Hamiltons. Even the Steuarts, who are much more ancient, and far more dignified than the Hamiltons, are very far from being so numerous. The truth is, Hamilton is a local name, and many had taken it, both from

Hamilton in Lanarkshire, and from several places of nearly the same name in England, long before the known existence of the Ducal family of that name. And when the Hamiltons found means to raise themselves (not very honourably) on the ruins of the Douglasses, and acquired some of their best Estates, many of the inhabitants, would, no doubt, adopt the name when they joined the standard of the Hamiltons.

FINIS.













